

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for installing polymer molding at the intersection between adjacent textile face flooring modules or flooring pieces having textile faces, comprising an assembly for traveling across the flooring, the assembly comprising:

(a) a reel for holding a supply of polymer molding;

(b) a guide coupled to the reel to position the polymer molding at the intersection between adjacent flooring modules or flooring pieces while the assembly is advanced across the modules or pieces;

(c) a heat source for heating the molding after it has been positioned;
and

(d) a molding compression structure for exerting force on the heated molding to establish intimate contact between the molding and portions of the adjacent flooring modules or pieces.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the molding compression structure is a wheel attached to the assembly.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the wheel surface carries a pattern for embossing the polymer molding.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the polymer molding has a generally T-shaped cross section.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the polymer molding is a hot melt adhesive.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the polymer molding is ethylene vinyl acetate.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the guide includes a foot that travels in a seam at the intersection between the adjacent flooring modules or flooring pieces.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the polymer molding forms a decorative grout line between the adjacent flooring modules or flooring pieces.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the polymer molding bonds to yarn ends of each of the adjacent flooring modules or flooring pieces.

10. A method for simultaneously bonding together adjacent flooring pieces or flooring modules having textile faces and imparting an attractive appearance, comprising:

positioning flooring or flooring modules side by side on a flooring support surface;

positioning a strip of hot melt material at an intersection between two adjacent flooring modules or flooring pieces;

heating the hot melt material;

applying pressure to the hot melt material to force it into intimate contact with portions of each of the adjacent flooring modules or flooring pieces; and

permitting the hot melt adhesive to cool into an attractive strip of material bonded to portions of each of the adjacent flooring modules or pieces.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the strip of hot melt material has a generally T-shaped cross section.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising embossing the strip of hot melt material with a decorative pattern.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the hot melt material is ethylene vinyl acetate.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the strip of hot melt material is supplied by an assembly traveling across the flooring, the assembly comprising:

- (a) a reel for holding a supply of the hot melt material;
- (b) a heat gun for heating the hot melt material after it has been positioned; and
- (c) a wheel for applying pressure to the hot melt material for establishing the intimate contact between the hot melt material and portions of each of the adjacent flooring modules or pieces.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising embossing the strip of hot melt material with a decorative pattern, wherein the wheel surface carries a pattern for embossing the hot melt material.

16. A floor covering, comprising:

- (a) a plurality of floor covering modules having a textile face positioned side-by-side on a floor; and
- (b) polymer molding positioned at abutting edges of the modules.

17. The floor covering of claim 16, wherein the polymer molding has a generally T-shaped cross section, and portions of the molding are bonded to the modules and are positioned:

- (a) between the abutting module edges; and
- (b) overlying at least a small portion of the face of abutting modules.

18. The floor covering of claim 17, wherein the portion of the molding overlying at least a small portion of the face of the abutting modules is embossed.

19. The floor covering of claim 16, wherein the polymer molding is a hot melt material.

20. The floor covering of claim 19, wherein the polymer molding is ethylene vinyl acetate.